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Dear Friend:

In spite of these difficult economic times, the 2010 California State Legislative Session saw many important bills signed into law. Inside is a summary of measures that ensure government accountability, strengthen the legal protections for low-wage workers, and increase public safety throughout the state.

It is an honor to serve the constituents of the Assembly District. If you have any questions or comments regarding this or other legislation, please contact the district office at (510) 286-1670 or visit [www.adc.asm.ca.gov/kv](http://www.adc.asm.ca.gov/kv).



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## 2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**INSIDE:**

**LEGISLATION AIMED AT MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL CALIFORNIANS**

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### AB 1586 - The BART Accountability Act

The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Accountability Act authorized BART to establish a Citizens Review Board



and an Office of Independent Police Auditor to investigate complaints of misconduct filed by members of the public against BART police officers. The Act is the result of rigorous negotiations

between community leaders, law enforcement, and the BART Board of Directors following the tragic killing of young Oscar Grant, III by a BART police officer on New Year's Day of 2009. AB 1586 is critical to rebuilding community confidence in BART and its officers.

## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

### AB 1666 - Whistleblower Hotlines for Local Government Employees

AB 1666 permits local governments, auditors, and controllers to establish and maintain a whistleblower hotline to receive calls from persons who have information regarding waste, fraud, or abuse. During this historically difficult financial crisis, whistleblower hotlines are an important tool to stop government waste, which costs local governments an estimated seven percent of their budgets each year.



## RETIREMENT PROTECTIONS

### AB 1667 - Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Association

AB 1667 implements a negotiated contract regarding retirement formulas for public safety employees. The bill will keep streets safe by ratifying an agreement between Alameda County and the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Association to keep officers employed.



## WORKER PROTECTION

### AB 2772 - Low-Wage Workers Recovery Act

AB 2772 expands the ability of low-wage workers to pursue claims for unpaid wages. The bill restores the requirement that an employer who loses a wage claim case must post a bond to cover the amount of wages owed before appealing to Superior Court. This important requirement will stop frivolous appeals by unscrupulous employers who are trying to avoid legitimate wage claims.

### AB 2774 - OSHA Workplace Safety Act

AB 2774 refines the way serious workplace safety violations are cited and how they are addressed during the appeals process. The federal government expressed concern over California's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) violation procedures after studies showed that California identifies and cites fewer serious violations than any other state. AB 2774 addresses this inconsistency and improves workplace safety throughout the state by strengthening investigation communications and establishing presumptions for violations.



## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

### Strengthening the State's Human Trafficking and Exploitation Laws

California's underground economy is thriving on child prostitution and the trafficking of minors. The commercial exploitation of children is modern day slavery and must be recognized and treated as seriously as other forms of child exploitation.



AB 17 (the Human Trafficking Accountability Act) and AB 499 (the Sexually Exploited Minors Pilot Program) strengthened human trafficking law in the state and brought the issue to a level of national discussion. AB 17, which became law on October 11, 2009, increased the fines on pimping, pandering, or procurement of a minor, and dedicated those funds to help sexually exploited minors obtain education, counseling, and shelter.

Prior to the enactment of AB 499, which passed in 2008, victims of human trafficking were processed through criminal channels instead of being treated as victims. AB 499 established a pilot program in Alameda County that directs minors away from criminal prosecution and provides them with fundamental recovery services through a diversion program. The program is a great success and is inspiring similar pilot projects throughout the state.

This year, the human trafficking fight will include the reintroduction of AB 2319, a bill that conforms state human trafficking law to federal law. This change would make it possible to prosecute a human trafficker who has used mental coercion to hold a child captive.

Alameda County has taken the lead in bravely fighting this modern day form of slavery and its terrible impact on child victims. Alameda County District Attorney's Office HEAT Watch Program is nationally recognized for its collaborative approach to treating sexually exploited minors. The program is expanding its operations by establishing the Bay Area HEAT Coalition to implement innovative approaches throughout nine Bay Area Counties.

California must commit its resources toward this continuing rescue mission of victimized children. Through the vigorous prosecution of child traffickers and the persons who fund and support their criminal activities, the state will finally be able to provide a strong support system for these child victims.